



## CSAAH Publication Community Brief

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### Hepatitis B Screening & Vaccination Behaviors in a Community-based Sample of Chinese & Korean Americans in New York City

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#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

- To understand Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) screening and vaccine behaviors in Chinese and Korean Americans in New York City (NYC).
- To identify factors that either encourage or discourage HBV screening and vaccine use in Chinese and Korean Americans living in NYC.

#### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) that can be prevented. HBV was found to overly affect Asian Americans because they make up half of all HBV cases in the United States.
- A high number or percentage of Chinese Americans and Korean Americans in the United States have HBV.
- Despite the high number of Chinese Americans and Korean Americans with HBV, screening and vaccine use is low in these communities. Having a better understanding of the factors that influence HBV screening and vaccine behaviors in Asian American communities is needed.

#### WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS?

- Chinese and Korean Americans in NYC have high HBV screening and vaccine rates.
  - Approximately **71% of Chinese Americans** and **70% of Korean Americans** have been screened for HBV.
  - **61% of Chinese Americans** and **60% of Korean Americans** have taken the HBV vaccine.
  - Among those who got the HBV screening, **8% of Chinese Americans** and **13% of Korean Americans** self-reported having HBV infection.

Based on the people in this sample:

- Chinese Americans were **more likely to screen for and get the HBV vaccine** if they said that they: have health insurance, have heard of HBV, were younger in age, have a high school or vocational school education (compared to having less than a high school education), and most



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importantly, were told by a doctor (received a doctor's recommendation) to get HBV screening and the HBV vaccine:

- Among Chinese Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to get HBV screening were **12 times and 14 times more likely** to get **screened** for HBV, respectively.
- Among Chinese Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to get the HBV vaccine were **16 times and 47 times more likely** to get **the HBV vaccine**, respectively.
- Korean Americans were **more likely to screen and take the HBV vaccine** if they said that they: had a college education or higher, had heard of HBV, and most importantly, had been told by a doctor to get HBV screening and the HBV vaccine:
  - Among Korean Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to get screened were **14 times and 6 times more likely** to get **screened** for HBV, respectively.
  - Among Korean Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to take the vaccine were **41 times and 12 times more likely** to get **the HBV vaccine** for HBV, respectively.

Most study participants were aware of HBV but many did not know how it passes from person to person.

- Reasons why people did not **screen** for HBV: feeling well/having no health problems, not being told by a doctor to get screened, not knowing a lot about HBV, having no insurance, not having time, and not knowing where to get screened.
- Reasons why people did not **get the HBV vaccine**: feeling well/no health problems, not being told by a doctor to take the vaccine, lacking knowledge about HBV, and not knowing one should get the vaccine.
- Findings from this study suggest that community-based strategies are needed to teach about HBV and to address doctor-, patient-, and resource-related barriers.

### WHO SHOULD CARE MOST?

- Researchers and policymakers who are interested in developing culturally-specific programs to promote awareness and education for HBV prevention and management in Asian American communities.
- Healthcare facilities, community organizations, researchers, health care providers, and policy workers working with Asian American communities in the United States and the New York metropolitan area.
- Health advocates working in Asian American communities.

### HOW DOES THIS PUBLICATION ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH?

- This study provided insight on predictors and barriers of HBV screening and vaccine use among Chinese Americans and Korean Americans.



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- This study highlighted the need for differential strategies in boosting HBV screening and vaccine use among Chinese American and Korean American populations.

### CITATION

- Li, S., Sim, S.C., Lee, L., Pollack, H.J., Wyatt, L.C., Trinh-Shevrin, C., Pong, P. and Kwon, S.C. 2017. Hepatitis B Screening & Vaccination Behaviors in a Community-based Sample of Chinese & Korean Americans in New York City. American Journal of Health Behavior, 41(2), pp. 204-214. PMC5472990.

### LINKS

- PubMed Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28452698>
- CSAAH Community Briefs: <https://med.nyu.edu/asian-health/resources/community-briefs>